

Colorado Springs Intermodal Mobility Plan: Connect COS

Community Advisory Committee (CAC) Meeting # 8

November 30, 2022

Meeting Summary

Meeting Purpose

- Provide a project status update.
- Provide an update on the public comment period
- Report on feedback collected.
- Discuss final reflections.

Welcome and Introductions

The ConnectCOS CAC Meeting opened with a brief welcome from Tim Roberts (City of Colorado Springs), who thanked CAC members for their continued participation throughout the project. Additionally, he thanked attendees as their participation in the process has helped build the draft ConnectCOS Transportation Plan for a Mobile Community. The project team then reviewed the agenda and prompted CAC members to introduce themselves through the virtual chat function.

Project Update

Ted Ritschard (Olsson) provides a summary of the ConnectCOS process. Based on the guiding themes of PlanCOS and the transportation investment priorities, the draft ConnectCOS Plan is based on a six-goal framework (Figure 1). This planning effort aims to serve the people & community, be resource stewards, and remain consistent with PlanCOS.



Figure 1: The ConnectCOS Goal Framework

Utilizing the goal framework, the project team assessed where the City's current transportation system was not meeting each goal's expectations and identify actions or solutions that would generate improved performance. The outcomes of this project led to the creation of an unconstrained project list of needs-driven actions. The draft and final ConnectCOS Plan will serve as a guide for future transportation functionality. Projects are not prioritized, and the Plan includes "programs" for future flexibility in scope.

Ted also reviewed funding considerations for the Plan. The most recent passage of the Pikes Peak Rural Transportation Authority (PPRTA) ballot initiative is a 10-year constrained funding program that includes projects identified through the ConnectCOS planning effort. While PPRTA is one funding source, additional funding sources will continue to be explored for ConnectCOS projects.

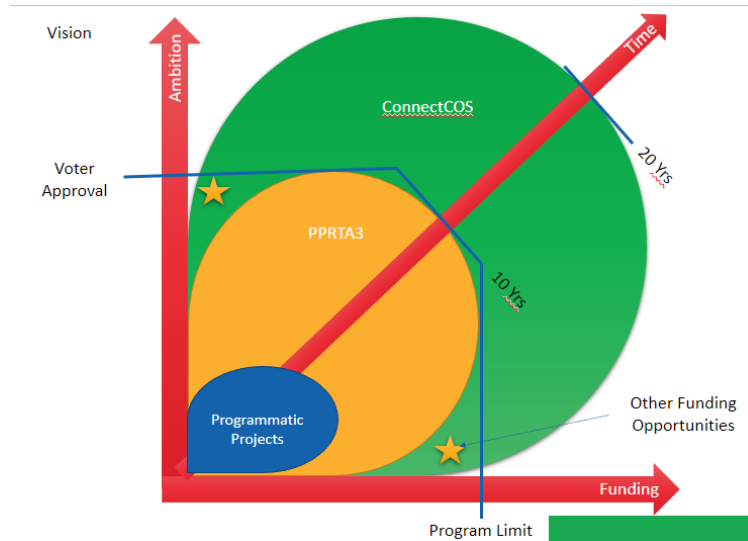


Figure 2: The ConnectCOS Plan's anticipated funding trajectory

Modal Networks

Amy Garinger (Kimley-Horn) reviewed the three modal networks included as part of the draft plan:

- the Major Thoroughfare Plan (MTP)
- the Transit Vision Network (TVN)
- the Active Transportation Network (ATN).

The MTP guides City development to ensure that transportation infrastructure is constructed to meet current and future transportation needs. This Plan was developed in close coordination with El Paso County to understand anticipated growth within the City and County. The Plan will guide the development of appropriately sized transportation facilities to serve the community's needs by directing transportation design standards and identifying right-of-way needs for future transportation facilities.

The TVN is a new addition to the City's master planning effort and communicates the intent to create a citywide transit network. The inclusion does not dictate design considerations for transit; however, it promotes studying how to implement transit improvements concerning PlanCOS.

The ATN demonstrates the core network of roads people could choose to bike or walk. The network does not map every route a person could walk or bike, but it envisions a more connected network similar to the TVN.

CAC members were curious to learn more about the TVN and ATN, particularly how these modal networks complement other City planning efforts. The MTP will be a codified network; therefore, any new development must consider transportation in its design standards. The TVN and ATN are not codified, but these maps can help inform development. CAC members within the development community shared that there are City efforts to create development incentives for transit-ready neighborhoods. Additionally, CAC members discussed transit development depends on the funding source. Planning for enhanced transit is excellent; however, it is difficult to experience the benefits without a secured funding source.

ConnectCOS - The Plan

Ted then introduced the draft ConnectCOS Transportation Plan for a Mobile Community, a philosophy for future transportation approaches and strategies related to the larger City's PlanCOS goals. The Plan itself is available on the project website (<https://coloradosprings.gov/project/connectcos>). The report outlines the following six chapters:

- Purpose
- Engagement
- Vision and Goals
- Network Assessment
- Citywide Needs and Strategies
- Recommendations.

Additionally, Ted previewed the current ConnectCOS schedule from draft plan review to plan adoption (Figure 3).

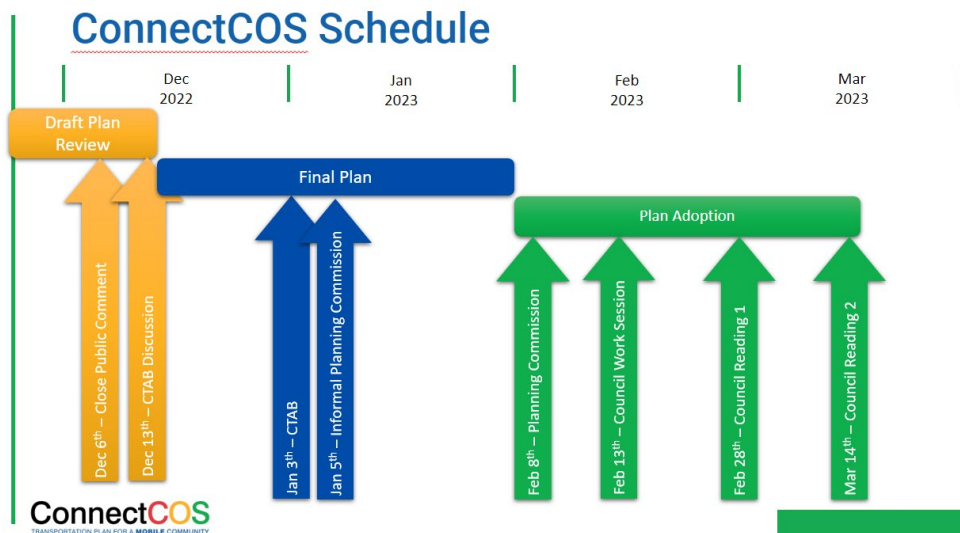


Figure 3: The ConnectCOS Plan Schedule

CAC members asked for further clarification on the formalized public comment period expected to close Tuesday, December 6th, 2022. The project team explained the comment period would end before the Citizen Transportation Advisory Board (CTAB) and Planning Commission

meetings to allow time for comments received to date to be summarized. Community members are encouraged to attend these meetings to provide additional feedback or comments.

Public Feedback

As of November 30th, the project team received about 67 comments or questions on the published draft ConnectCOS Plan. The following key themes have emerged through the formalized comment period:

- Prioritize addressing the lack of east-west connectivity in the City within the citywide networks
- Support for multimodal travel to help reduce congestion
- Interest in regional passenger rail
- Support for increased bicycle facilities and safety features
- Support for enhanced transit services throughout the City
- Desire to preserve community character
- Desire to better understand what happens next regarding when a project is funded.

CAC Reflections

As this is the final planned meeting for the ConnectCOS CAC, the last discussion encouraged members to share their reflections on the draft Plan and the more extensive engagement process. Most members expressed appreciation for the process and the draft plan. CAC members also expressed the ability to continue sharing the Plan with their networks, including the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs students and residents in Southeast Colorado Springs.

When sharing what they heard about the Plan, CAC members shared various thoughts. Residents continue to discuss how the Plan would interact with evacuation and emergency routes within the community. Additionally, community members have also voiced concerns for specific projects within the draft ConnectCOS project list, particularly ones on North Nevada Avenue. Additionally, CAC members discussed how the Plan includes the downtown experience and functionality as this area differs from the rest of the City. Lastly, CAC members discussed design considerations for bicycle infrastructure. While the Plan includes considerations for bikes and pedestrians, design elements will be explored in subsequent transportation studies to ensure the design matches the identified corridor's characteristics.

Next Steps

This meeting served as the final CAC meeting for the ConnectCOS project. CAC members are encouraged to share their experiences serving on the committee through a short survey due Monday, December 12th. Tim Roberts closed the meeting by thanking the CAC again for all their input and for communicating project updates to their constituents. Additionally, Tim encouraged CAC members to continue to follow the Plan through council adoption.

Participants

Project Team Attendees

Name	Organization
Ted Ritschard	Olsson
Amy Garinger	Kimley Horn
Angela Woolcott	Kearns & West
Zach Barr	Kearns & West
Caitlin Sheridan	Kearns & West
Todd Frisbee	City of Colorado Springs
Tim Roberts	City of Colorado Springs

Committee Attendees

Name	Organization
Jerry White	Bike Colorado Springs
Nancy Henjum	Colorado Springs City Council
Brett Lacey	Colorado Springs Fire Department
Keith Thompson	Council of Neighborhood Organizations (CONO)
Chelsea Gondeck	Downtown Partnership
Tim Seibert	Norwood
Jim Godfrey	Pikes Peak Rural Transportation Authority (PPRTA)
Joyce Salazar	RISE Coalition
Paul Spotts	The Independence Center
Jen Furda	University of Colorado at Colorado Springs